

THE DISSOLUTION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

dold maferie, having much happy intercourse with Fra Raimondo, Fra Tommaso Caffarini, Madonna Orietta Scotti, Francesco Malavolti, and others who still had Catherine's name in their hearts and on their lips.¹ In 1398, in the chapter-general held near Cilli in Styria, he was elected prior-general of the whole Carthusian order under the Roman obedience, in opposition to the aged Dom Guillaume Rainaud, who, from the mother-house of Grenoble, still ruled the rest of the Carthusians who adhered to the Popes of Avignon. A pleasant letter to Fra Tommaso has been preserved to us, in which Stefano informs him of his election, implores his prayers and commends himself to those of Fra Raimondo, and, now that he will no longer reside in Italy, commits the book of Catherine's letters (the famous manuscript of the Certosa of Pavia) and her other relics to his correspondent's care.²

Neri di Landoccio, in the meanwhile, had fulfilled Catherine's obedience by becoming a hermit, first at Agromaggio near Florence, where one of her Florentine friends, Leonardo di Niccolo Frescobaldi, had founded a hermitage, and afterwards at another *romitorio* outside the Porta Nuova of Siena. Here, he kept closely in touch with the surviving members of the fellowship, gathered disciples round him, and lived a life of austere holiness. He died on March 12, 1406, and was buried at the convent of the Olivetani outside Porta Tufi.⁸

Catherine's other secretary, Francesco Malavolti, remained in the world for some years after her death. His wife and children having died, an uncle, Niccoluccio Malavolti, seeing the pleasure that he took in horses and arms, advised him, if he did not marry again, to become a knight of St. John. Francesco tells us how he resolved to do this, was accepted by the chapter-general of the order at Genoa, and returned to Siena to prepare the armour,

¹ *Lettere del discepolo*, 34.

^a Letter of October 17, 1398, in Fra Tommaso Caffarini, *op. tit.*, pp. 230, 231.

⁸ Cf. the touching letter from Luca di Benvenuto, one of Neri's disciples, to Ser Jacomo, in *Lettere del discepolo*, 46.